

Green Team (GT) Notes from January 21, 2010--Thanks everyone.

23 Attendees: Mary Sherwin, Silvia Pineiro, Roslyn Reeps, Carol Ladue, Shane Mulready, Maritza Pagan, Roz Grzywinski, Terry Parker, Jim Creighton, KC Alexander, Nan Peckham, Elaine Fournier, Nicole Lugli, Sherill Baldwin, Patricia Porter, Kate Brown, Wanda Torres, Carmen Holzman, Pauline Blackstock, Graham Stevens, Dennis Schain, Kim Trella, Jessica Morgan

1. Earth Day Planning - Dennis Schain reviewed the events and activities that DEP is planning for the 40th Earth Day in CT. They include the following:
 - Video that Judy Prill is producing about environmental accomplishments and challenges that lie ahead
 - Countdown of "40 most significant environmental accomplishments"
 - "40 actions you can take to help the environment"
 - Environment Day on Earth Day, Thursday April 22. Booths, displays, at the LOB concourse being organized by Cyndy Chanaca and Diane Joy.
 - Also on April 22 in Judiciary Room of the Capitol, panel or speaker
 - Another idea was to have an event at the Science Center, perhaps a colloquium, but this would have to be organized by another entity, e.g. an environmental organization

Green Team proposal: Roz Reeps suggested that we need to have young people and their interests prominently featured in the Earth Day activities. One specific suggestion she made was to have DEP do an "app" or application that would be featured on smart phones. She forwarded the information about costs and how it can be done to Dennis and Graham for the Commissioner's consideration.

Green Team Earth Day activity: Graham and Dennis both welcomed some kind of event for staff to celebrate Earth Day internally, another opportunity to get our message out. We explained that staff may be overcommitted with other Earth Day agency tasks. It was decided that the Green Team would not pursue an agency-wide event for Earth Day.

Update: Since the meeting we have learned that KC and the compost volunteers will be harvesting our compost around Earth Day time. It may be possible to organize another staff "give-away" of DEP compost as an "Earth Day" activity. Details will be reported on next meeting.

2. Candy/Snack Wrapper Recycling - Sherill proposed a project that the Green Team might want to sponsor, the collection of candy and snack wrappers for recycling with the proceeds (\$.05/wrapper) going to a charitable cause. The wrappers are "recycled" into woven bags. Questions raised were: Could the money be used for projects here at the department? (probably not); would we be able to collect enough wrappers to make it worth it? What are the challenges of collecting and storing them? Agreed that no action will be considered until after Earth Day.
3. Adaptation to CT Climate Change Impacts - Roslyn Reeps of the planning office presented the first section of a powerpoint about the work of the adaptation subcommittee of the state's CT Climate Change Committee. She gave us an overview of the subcommittee's charge which is to

first assess risks for the four areas of concern— Agriculture, Natural Resources, Infrastructure, and Public Health

4. We didn't have time for updates at this meeting.